

MICHIGAN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
STATE SPECIAL EDUCATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

October 4, 2006
Hampton Inn
Okemos, Michigan
10:00 am — 2:30 pm

Present: Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Michael Beach, Jean Christenson, Julie Daggett-Lawrence, Tina Densmore, Judith Dorsch-Backes, Jonell Gillette, Darlene Heard-Thomas, Donna Herrle, Elaine High, Robert Hove, Maggie Kolk, Christopher Korbel, Shari Krishnan, Paul Kubicek, Tom Langdon, Sharon Melko for (Cindy Anderson), Jerry Oermann, David Overly, Susan Peters, Chuck Saur, Richard Spring, Debbie Squires, Susan Steinbacher, Chuck Stockwell, Claudia Werner, Julie Winkelstern, Michael Yocum

Alternates Present: Michelle Driscoll, Linda Keway, Pat MacQuarrie

Ex-Officio Present: Lyn Boza, Mark Larson, Michele Robinson

MDE Staff: Meredith Hines, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Ann Omans, Pat West

Absent: Cindy Anderson, Doris Higgs, Lynda Jackson, Jeff Siegel, Barbara Stork, Jan VanGasse, Sheri Falvay, Lee Martin, Jane Scarlett,

Guests: Mary Hoag, Sue Pratt, and Mary Suurmeyer from CAUSE

Call to Order

Chairperson Chuck Saur called the meeting to order.

Roll Call Roll call was taken and a quorum was present.

Introduction of Guests

Guests were introduced.

Amend/Approve Proposed Agenda

The Proposed Agenda was reviewed. One item was added subsequent to the Chairperson's Report – SEAC Logistics.

Amend/Approve Minutes

The June 7, 2006 SEAC meeting minutes were approved.

Public Comment

Sue Pratt expressed the following concerns:

- that SEAC had not been given the opportunity to comment on the Emergency Rules
- that the Seclusion and Restraint Board Item had changed drastically since the referent group first gave their input
- and that Michigan had been fined for not having the Alternate Assessment done to meet the federal deadline.

Member Comment

Robert Hove announced that the Michigan Association of School Psychologists Conference would be held October 29-31 and that RTI would be discussed. Information can be found at www.MASPOnline.org.

Discussion: The Seclusion and Restraint document has changed since SEAC looked at it. There was concern that it will go to the board without further SEAC comment. It is an Information Item and individual members of the SEAC may make public comment.

Concern was expressed that there is no time to respond as the SEAC body since the document goes to the State Board of Education this month. A draft letter was suggested requesting the SBE wait until the SEAC had a chance to comment. An ad hoc committee was created to respond to the board.

Chairperson's Report

Chuck Saur welcomed everyone back from summertime activities. He reported on the successful retreat in Mt. Pleasant, reminding members to pick up their notebooks if they hadn't already done so. He requested that new members talk with their mentors and get to know them; they are a valuable resource. Chuck publicly thanked Eileen Weiser and Joanne Winkelman for their presentations at the retreat.

Chuck informed the SEAC membership that the SEAC is obliged to create standing committees and also those identified by the group on an Ad Hoc basis.

Vice Chair Beverly Baroni-Yeglic updated the group on the issues and priorities from the retreat and their use throughout the year.

State Reports

Ann Omans, Supervisor of the Program Accountability Unit of the OSE/EIS, gave the report.

She gave an update of what the OSE/EIS does. She noted from discussions that the SEAC needs a process for times when SEAC is not in session such as during the summer.

Ann reviewed the three year history of the Seclusion and Restraint issue. A referent group met and did not come to consensus on all points. The referent group made recommendations to the Michigan Department of Education, which were reviewed and taken to the SBE. The Board did not have consensus, and directed the MDE to look at other states and revise the document. It was brought back to the Board. Again, there was no consensus. On October 10 it will go to the Board for the third time. She referred the SEAC members to the website for the current document. The item is an Information Item for the SBE, and next month it will be voted on unless the board directs more changes. Patti Oates-Ulrich noted that there is availability for public comment at the Board meeting.

Some concerns were expressed about the lack of opportunity to comment on major policies that the Michigan Department of Education produces. It was suggested that perhaps the SEAC needs to meet over the summer months or a process needs to be in place so that members can comment during the summer months.

Ann reviewed the OSE-EIS Updates for the SEAC. More information about the State Performance Plan was requested. The SEAC is being asked to comment on some Indicators, and assist with target setting because the MDE is required to have input from stakeholders. The Annual Performance Report and State Performance Plan is due Feb. 1, 2007. Indicators 5 (Least Restrictive Environment), 4 (Suspension/Expulsion),

8 (Facilitated Parent Involvement), and 18 (Hearings Settled) are the SPP focus for the SEAC this year.

Reports from Ex-Officio Members

Lynn Boza, Michigan Rehabilitation Services, announced a conference presented jointly by the MRS and other rehabilitation organizations. Information can be obtained at <http://www.maro.org>.

Mark Larson, representative of the Institutions of Higher Education (IHE), reported that the IHE Committee, the Office of Professional Preparation Services and the OSE-EIS have been working on special education teacher preparation issues. New standards for elementary teachers have gone out for public comment and are awaiting approval from the State Board of Education. Special education is now considered a student-centered major.

The IHE Committee assisted in rewriting the rule for special education teacher preparation. The IHE Committee is now working with the OSE/EIS and administrators to rewrite the rules for special education administrators.

Committee Reports None

Information Items¹ - None

Action Items None

Process Check: Beverly Baroni-Yelic led the discussion.

Make sure we have follow-up information to comment on at the next meeting.

Group consensus: Microphones are needed for the next meeting.

Priority Selection

Sandi Laham helped the SEAC members clarify work issues for this SEAC year. Members were instructed to look at the topics and generate questions that would help clarify the topic. "Is it urgent?" "Is it a function?" "Is this old or new information?" "What new news is the SEAC going to add here?"

Three groups were formed to use this process: Is the statement/question clear? Is it a priority? What are the unintended negative consequences, and possible solutions?

Sandi worked with the group to rank order the issues and make decisions about where to make the best use of their time this year. She will send the results of the voting to the Executive Committee who will make the subcommittee determinations.

The question was raised whether RTI will be used as a procedure for early intervention services or a diagnosis? Pat MacQuarrie volunteered to get materials on RTI to send out to SEAC members.

Chuck Saur announced that an Ad Hoc Committee on Seclusion/Restraint will be formed, and Richard Spring will chair the group. Also on the subcommittee are: Pat MacQuarrie, Michele Driscoll, Julie Daggett-Lawrence, Maggie Kolk.

Meeting adjourned.

¹ Items requiring action by the SEAC are presented first as Information Items and then again as Action Items the following month.

Special Education Advisory Committee
Executive Committee
Minutes of October 4, 2006, Meeting
8:45 a.m.

Hampton Inn, Okemos, Michigan

Present: Chuck Saur, Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Robert Hove, Jerry Oermann, Susan Peters, Julie Winkelstern, Ann Omans, Patti Oates-Ulrich, Meredith Hines

Absent: Jan VanGasse

1. Review of Today's Agenda

Add section VIIIa – SEAC Logistics

- a. Invited Presentations - None
- 2. Chairperson's Report – Chuck Saur will welcome SEAC members, briefly recap the retreat
 - a. State Department Reports – Ann Omans will give the report in Jacque's absence (Medical Leave/Surgery)
 - i. OSE/EIS Updates will become part of monthly report to SEAC
 - ii. SPP Forecast – the SEAC will be asked for input on indicators
 - b. Information Items - None
 - c. Action Items - None

3. Future Agenda Development

Six issues were Identified that will be written as preliminary work. The executive committee will respond and then send out to the membership. Four or five items will be selected as the priorities for the year.

For Nov. 1 meeting: have fact sheets for each indicator – November LRE, Hearings Settled. Update last year's sheets for Resource Notebook, SPP tab. Review baseline data and set targets for activities

Offer two Ad Hoc Committees

- a. Operations – Bylaws – Beverly Baroni-Yeglic, Chair
- b. Telecommunications and Videoconferencing
- 4. Executive Committee debrief following today's Committee of the Whole meeting.

Debriefing Notes: Pat/Meredith will have an information sheet at the check-in table with suggestions for alternate and guest seating protocol, based on the

Bylaws. Seating – delegates where they want, pick up their place card and nametag at check-in table, alternates and guests invited to sit at a back table.

Sandy requested to laminate the map from the retreat-Pat West will do this.